

REMARKS

Applicants have cancelled claims 157-165, 168-173, 176-183, 185-187, and 190-198 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims similar or identical to these claims in one or more applications claiming priority to this application.

Applicants have amended dependent claims 188, 189, and 199 to provide proper antecedent basis, as follows. In claim 188, "reaction chamber" was amended to "chamber." In claim 189, "mixing unit chamber" was amended to "mixing chamber." In claim 199, Applicants have recited that the system comprises a plurality of reaction sites that are constructed and arranged to operate in parallel. No new matter has been added.

Claims 166, 167, 184, 188, 189, and 199 are now pending for examination.

Drawings

The drawings have been objected to for not illustrating a "system for maintaining and cultivating cells comprising a small-scale chemical or biochemical reactor comprising a plastic substrate comprising a plurality of reaction units constructed and arranged to operate in parallel."

It is noted that "a plurality of reaction units constructed and arranged to operate in parallel" was deleted from the independent claims as pending (claims 166 and 167) in a prior response. It is believed that the figures, for example, Figure 1, illustrates a system for maintaining and cultivating cells comprising a small-scale chemical or biochemical reactor comprises a plastic substrate. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the drawings on this ground be withdrawn, although the properness of this objection is not conceded to by the Applicants.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2

Claims 168-173, 183, 191, and 199 have been rejected as having insufficient antecedent basis. Claim 199 has been amended to recite proper antecedent basis. The remaining claims have been cancelled, rendering their rejection moot.

Claims 157-173 and 176-199 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2, as the Patent Office asserts that the structural relationship between "at least one reaction unit," "fluid

pathway,” “chamber constructed and arranged to cultivate cells,” “membrane,” “enclosure,” and “heating unit” is unclear.

Initially, it should be noted that “heating unit” only appears in independent claim 163, and does not appear in the other independent claims. However, this claim has been cancelled, rendering the rejection moot. In addition, independent claim 164 has been cancelled as well.

It is believed that claims 166 and 167, as pending, recite a relationship between each of these components. Each of these independent claims recites a system for maintaining and cultivating cells in culture that comprises a small-scale chemical or biochemical reactor, a membrane, and an enclosure. In each of these claims, the enclosure is positioned proximate the membrane. The reactor of the system comprises a plastic substrate that comprises at least one reaction unit. The reaction unit includes a fluid pathway that comprises a chamber, where the membrane described above is positioned so as to define at least one wall of the fluid pathway. Thus, structural relationships between “at least one reaction unit,” “fluid pathway,” “chamber constructed and arranged to cultivate cells,” “membrane,” and “enclosure” have been defined by virtue of the relationships recited in the claims. Accordingly, it is believed that independent 166 and 167 are not indefinite, and it is respectfully requested that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn. The remaining rejected claims have either been cancelled or depend from one of claims 166 and 167, and should be allowable for the same reasons. Withdraw of the rejection of these claims is also respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this response, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed

check, please charge Deposit Account No. 23/2825, under Order No. B1102.70000US00 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: 03/11/08

Respectfully submitted,

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